

I claim:

1. A track member through which a ladder is attached to a deck of a water craft, said ladder being aligned on said track member in a first vertical position with a gate of a rail to permit ingress/egress between a body of water and deck and in a second vertical position adjacent to said gate, said ladder being movable on said track from said second vertical position to said first vertical position and being rotated 180° such that at least one rung on the ladder is located in the body of water, said track being characterized by a housing having an first end and a second end with a bore that extends from said first end to said second end, said housing having a linear slot that extends from said first end to said second end along a first vertical plane with respect to said bore and first and second vertical slots spaced from said first end, said housing having a radial projection that extends from the axis of said bore in a plane perpendicular to and 180° from said first and second vertical slots, said housing having an axial groove in said bore and adjacent said radial projection that extends from said first end to said second end, said radial projection having a plurality of radial openings located at intervals between said first end and said second end of said housing with at least a first opening located in a first plane a first distance from said first vertical slot toward said first end, a second opening located in a second plane a second distance substantially equal to said first distance from said second vertical slot toward said second end and a third radial opening located adjacent said second end; said housing having a first leg that extends from said bore with a first lip located in a second vertical plane that is perpendicular to a base of said radial projection to define a second linear slot that extends from said first end to said second end and a second leg that extends from said bore with a second lip located in said second vertical plane to define a third linear slot that extends from said first end to said second end, said plurality of openings being selectively available for receiving first bolt means, said first bolt means being defined by a first bolt having a head that is held by said axial groove and a shaft that extends through the radial projection and into said deck, and a nut that is secured to said shaft to urge said first and second lips and said

- base of said radial projection into engagement with the deck to fix said track member to said deck, said second linear slot and said third linear slot being selective available for receiving second bolt means, said second bolt means being defined by a second bolt having a head that is held by engagement
- 5 with said first leg and said radial projection or by said second leg and said radial projection with a shaft that extends into said deck and a nut that is secured to said shaft to urge said first and second lips and said base of said radial projection into engagement with the deck to fix said track member to said deck.
- 10 2. The track member as recited in claim 1 wherein said housing is characterized by said first and second ends each having an end cap with a body that extends into said bore, said body having a length that covers said head of a bolt located in said first and third openings, said first and second end caps each having a surface that extends from alignment with said base
- 15 of said radial projection along a 45° angle toward an apex such that any force applied to said track member is not directly communicated into said selected first and second bolt means.
3. The track member as recited in claim 1 wherein said bore is characterized by having a first diameter that receives first and second
- 20 cylindrical members which have a second smaller diameter, each of said cylindrical members having a first end and a second end with a cross bore perpendicular to an axis of said cylindrical members, said cross bore having a first diameter and a second diameter, said first diameter being larger than said second diameter and extending from a first peripheral surface on the
- 25 cylindrical member to a surface that transitions into said second diameter that extends to a second peripheral surface on said cylindrical member, said cross bore receiving an attaching bolt that is screwed into a side rail of said ladder to fix the cylindrical member to a side rail and a plug that is located in said first diameter to close said cross bore, said attaching bolt having a
- 30 smaller diameter than either said linear slot or said first and second vertical slots such that movement of the cylindrical member in said bore between said first and second positions is not hindered.

4. The track member as recited in claim 1 wherein said bore is characterized by being rectangular and receives correspondingly substantially first and second rectangular blocks, each of said first and second rectangular blocks having a first member that is separated from a
5 second member by a spacer with an axial bore through said first and second members, a pin that extends through said axial bore joins said first member with said second member to retain an eye on a bolt there between, said bolt being attached to a side rail of said ladder, said spacer allowing said eye to rotate on said pin and correspondingly said ladder to rotate between said first and second vertical positions while said blocks remain stationary, said blocks
10 being moved in said rectangular bore as said ladder is moved between said first and second positions without binding.

5. The track member as recited in claim 1 wherein said ladder is characterized by a stand-off attached to a side rail that engages structure on
15 said water craft when said ladder is in said first vertical position.

6. The track member as recited in claim 5 wherein said stand-off attachment is characterized by engaging said rail on said deck when said ladder is in a first vertical position to assist in retaining said ladder in said second vertical position.

20 7. The track member as recited in claim 1 wherein said ladder is characterized by being collapsible from a first length in said first vertical position to a smaller second length in said second vertical position.

8. The track member as recited in claim 7 wherein said ladder is further characterized by a plurality of side rails having a decreasing diameter
25 that telescope into each other and on being rotated from said first vertical position into said second vertical position the smaller diameter side rails move into the larger diameter rails to achieve said smaller second length.

9. The track member as recited in claim 1 wherein said ladder is characterized by a first section that has first and second a side rails and a
30 second section that has third and fourth side rails, said first side rail being connected to said third side rail by a first pin and said second side rail being connected to said fourth side rail by a second pin, said first and second

section being aligned to define said first length and said second section being folded into said first section by pivoting on said first and second section pins to define said smaller second length.

10. The track member as recited in claim 7 wherein a latch member
5 engages said ladder to assist in maintaining said ladder in said second vertical position.

11. The track member as recited in claim 1 wherein said base of said radial projection is characterized by a v-shaped center line to provide for alignment of said track with respect to said deck.